

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Indian Armed Forces do not have any "Rocket Aircraft" missile in their inventory.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Permission to Indian Tourists to Bring one Firearm

2724. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian tourists were previously allowed to bring one firearm on payment of customs duty;

(b) whether the baggage rules were amended in 1986 prohibiting bringing of fire-arms by Indian tourists;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether since March, 1990 a persons engaged in employment overseas is permitted to bring one fire-arm under the Transfer of Residence Rules, with the condition that it cannot be sold for life;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide similar facility to the Indian tourists;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import of firearms as baggage was prohibited through the issue of Import Trade Control Public Notice.

(c) The import of firearms was prohibited in the light of the conditions then obtaining in the country.

(d) The relaxation to permit import of one firearm under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 was given in January, 1988.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (e).

(g) The conditions obtaining in the country at present do not call for any relaxation in the existing policy.

[Translation]

Construction of by Pass on National Highway No.24 at Faridpur (Bareilly)

2725. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a by pass on the segment of National Highway No. 24 passing through Faridpur (Bareilly); and

(b) if so, the time by which it would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export to USSR

2727. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of exports to Soviet Union during 1990-91 and the fall in exports during the current year;

(b) the percentage of fall in exports to

East European countries during the current year to the exports made during 1990-91; and

(c) the steps taken to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total value of India's exports to Soviet Union during 1990-91 stood at Rs. 5266 crores. During the period April-August 1991-92 exports to USSR have fallen by about Rs. 998 crores as compared to the corresponding period of 1990-91.

(b) Exports to East-European countries during the period April-August 1991-92 have declined by about 37% as compared to the corresponding period of 1990-91.

(c) The fall in exports of East-European countries is mainly due to decline in exports to USSR. Since trade between India and the USSR is carried out on the basis of balanced payments, efforts are being made to in-

crease imports from that country so that Indian exports can also rise.

Cases of Smuggling of Narcotic Drugs at Trivandrum Airport

2728. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases involving smuggling of narcotic drugs detected at Trivandrum airport during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken for strengthening the anti-smuggling machinery at Trivandrum airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) The number of cases involving smuggling of narcotic drugs, the name of the drug and the quantity seized by the Customs authorities at Trivandrum airport during the last 3 years is given in the table below:-

Year	No. of Cases	Name of drug	Quantity
1989	1	Brown Sugar	16.6 Kgs.
1990	3	Brown Sugar	8.96 Kgs.
1991 (upto 30th November)	Nil	-	-

(b) The Customs authorities remain alert against smuggling including that of narcotic drugs. In doubtful cases, examination of the baggage and of the person is being conducted.

Rural Credit Policy

2729. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small farmers in the country are affected by the Rural Credit Policy; (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to review the rural credit policy so as to make it beneficial to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Agriculture is one of the